

4.4 The Decline of the Roman Republic

Gaius Marius - General

- there weren't many soldiers in Rome who owned land
- grain was becoming scarce
 - necessary for soldiers to return
 - dependent on soldiers for food and support
- creation of the "standing army"
- abolishment of the property holding to gain entry



Marian Reforms

With the abolition of the landholding requirement to gain entry into the army, recruitment was no longer an issue.

- made up of landless soldiers
- dependent on their General
- no longer had to return home to harvest
- “professional soldiers”

Small pay system – before soldiers had to provide their own fighting equipment

Standing Army

This was a fixed force. Marius's Mules

- Legionaries had fixed service
 - Roman citizens under the age of 45
 - 16 years of service
 - last 4 years were veteranus – lighter duties
 - retired with a pension (land) given to them by their General

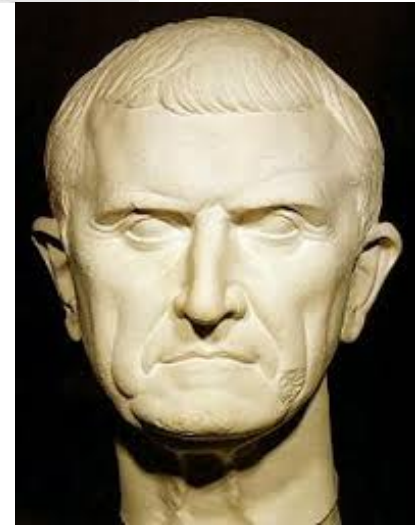
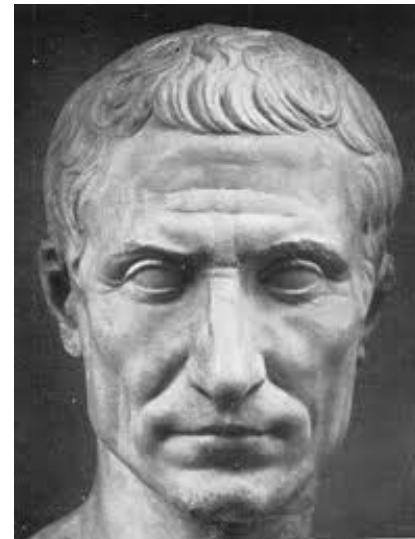
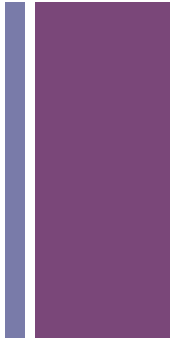
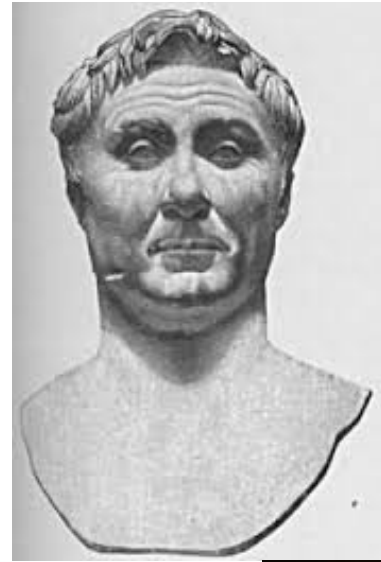
Soldiers served in legions with an aquila –
legionary standard – pride for their unit

Benefits of Marius' Reforms

- unemployed masses enlisting for military service alongside the more fortunate citizens
- poorer citizens were drawn to life-long service, as they were rewarded with the prospect of settlement in conquered land
- new Roman army increased in numbers because of the lower class citizens who had a future tied to a permanent career
 - constant reserve of soldiers
- this growth ensured continued military success
- now he was on to reform the organization

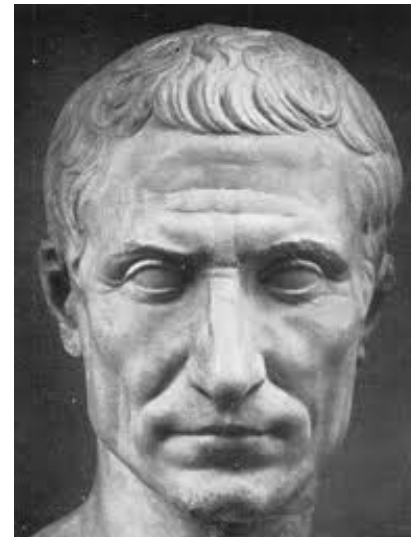
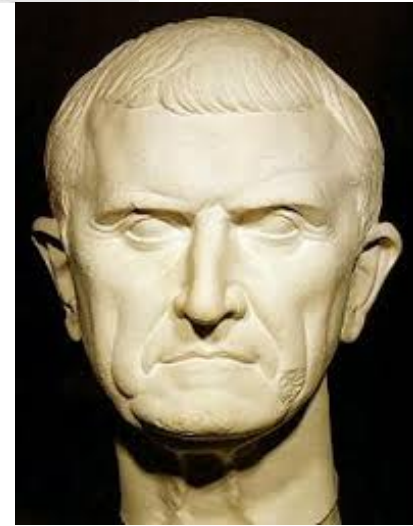
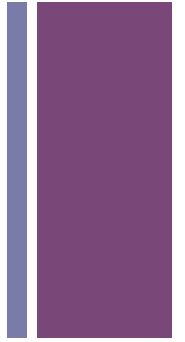
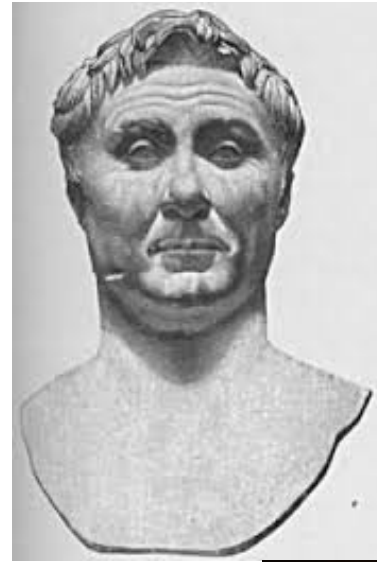
+ From Pompey to Caesar

- Three men, Pompey the Great, Crassus, and Julius Caesar came to power
- All military adventurers who cared little about the Republican Constitution



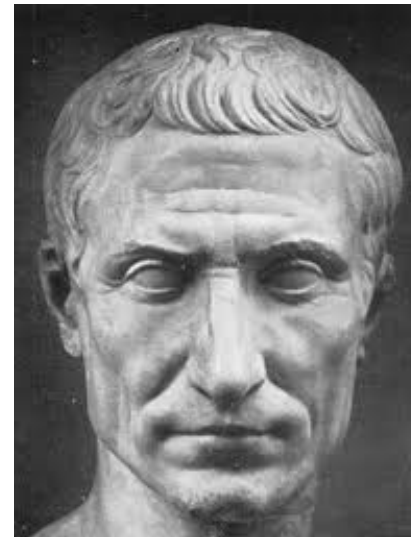
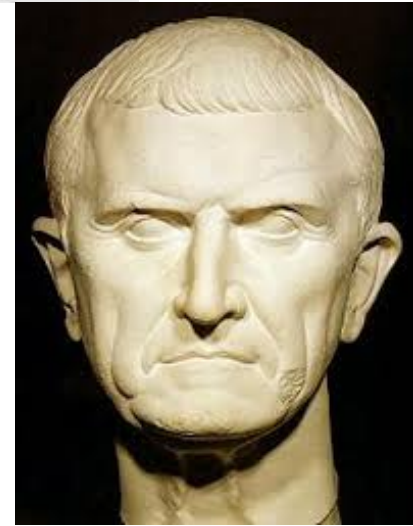
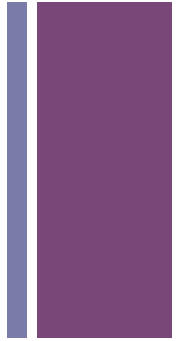
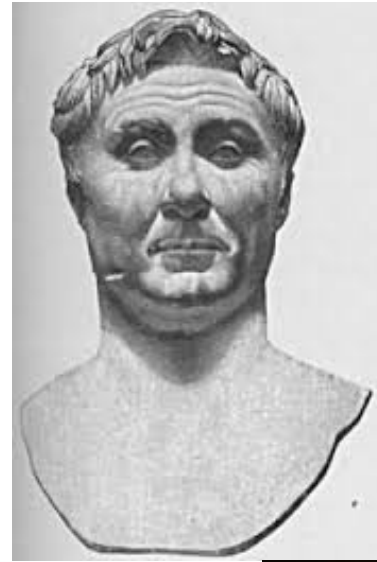
+ From Pompey to Caesar

- According to their own private arrangement, they split the government of Rome amongst themselves in 60 BCE and formed the **First Triumvirate** (rule of three men)



+ From Pompey to Caesar

- Pompey- vanquished Pirates from the Mediterranean
- Caesar set out to subjugate his enemies in Northern Italy
- Crassus fought the slave rebellion led by Spartacus in 71 BCE
- Crassus then went to fight the Parthians in Persia



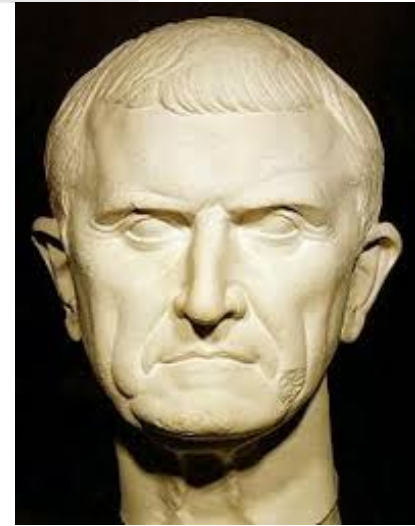
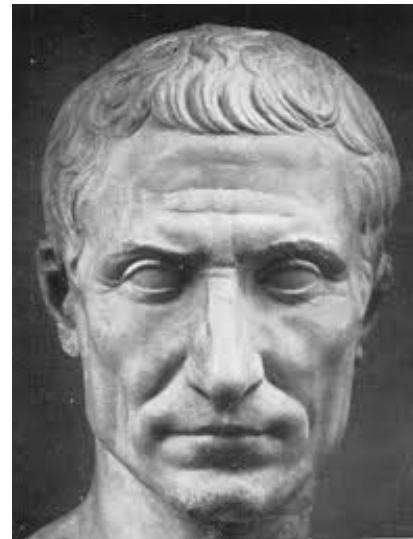
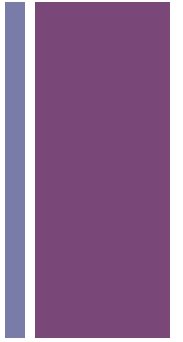
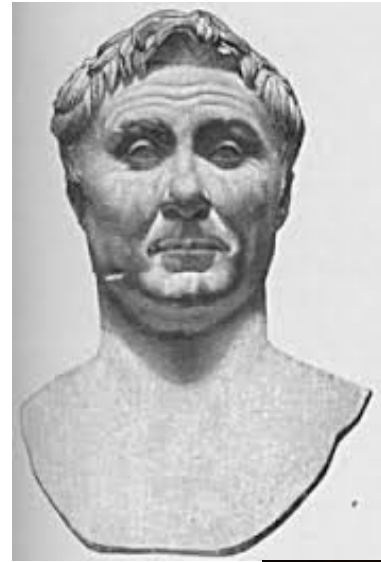
Spartacus Meets Pompey and Crassus



- Two Roman Generals led their armies to the southern tip of Italy
- 40,000 men
- The slaves were no match – weapons were inferior
- Spartacus was killed and 6,000 of his men were crucified and placed along the Appian Way
 - Reminder of how powerful the Roman Army is
- Pompey and Crassus return to Rome as heroes

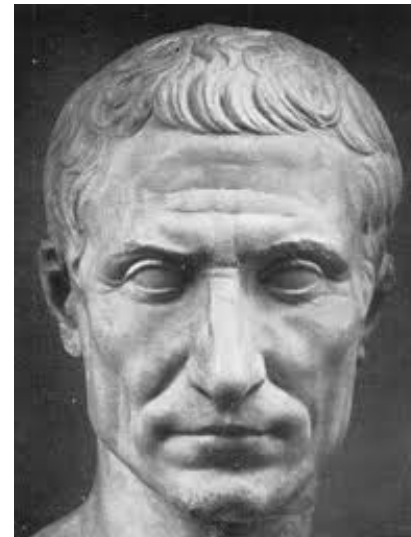
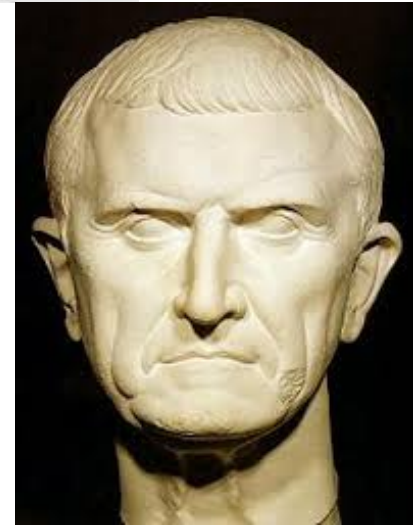
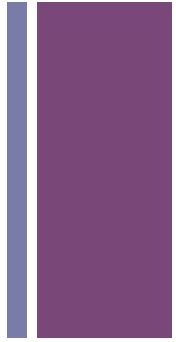
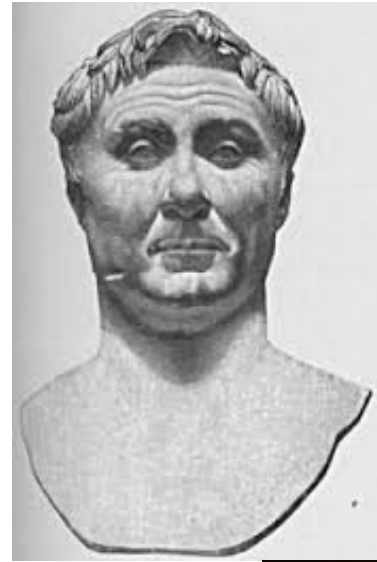
+ From Pompey to Caesar

- Crassus was killed in Persia in 53 BCE
- Pompey then turned on Caesar and agreed with the Senate that Caesar disband his army



+ From Pompey to Caesar

- Caesar knew disbanding his army would leave him defenceless
- He committed an illegal act in 49 BCE by crossing the stream known as the Rubicon with his army and therefore entered Italian territory

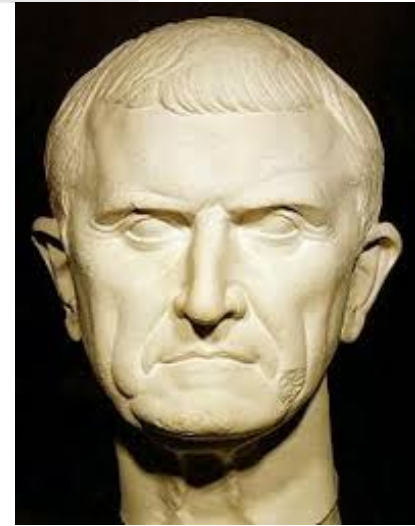
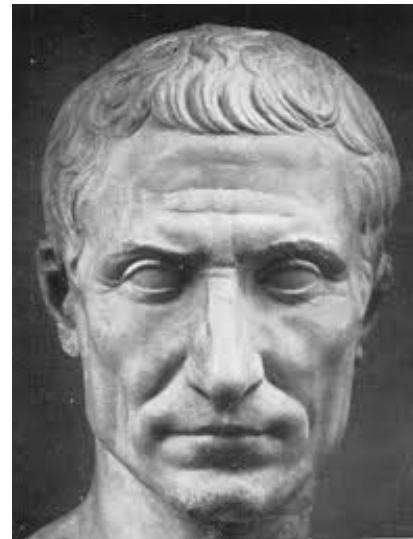
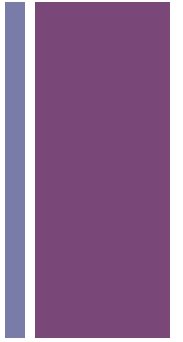
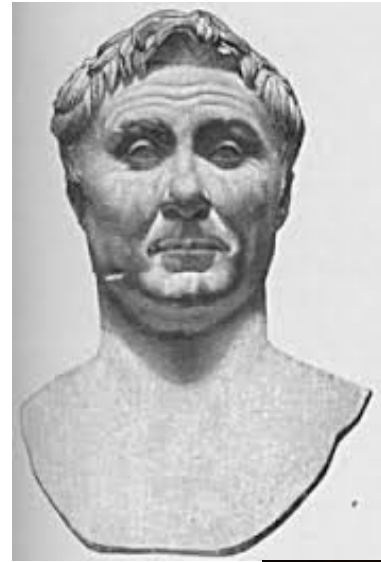


Rubicon River

- Caesar took his troops towards Rome from Gaul
- Rubicon River was a boundary
 - A general could not legally cross a river without permission from Rome
 - Cross = treason = war
 - Caesar crossed without knowing the consequence on the other side
 - Rome welcomed him as a hero

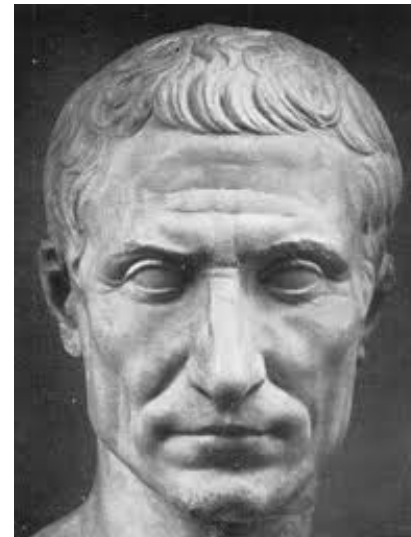
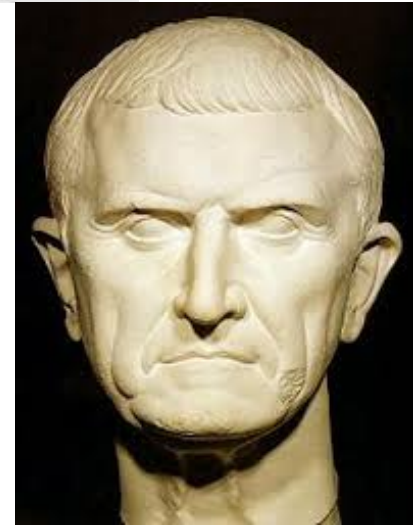
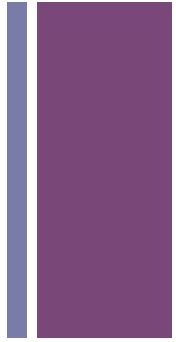
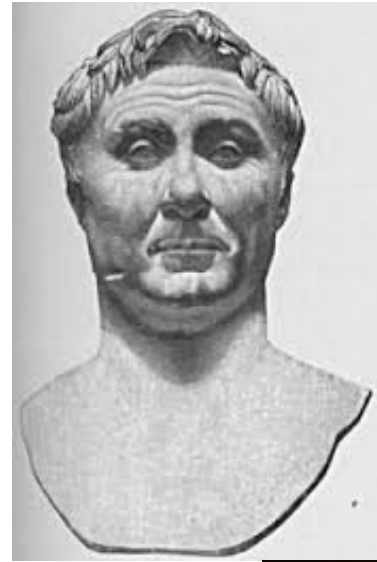
+ From Pompey to Caesar

- Pompey came to the Aid of the Senate and battled Caesar's army
- Pompey was beaten on all fronts and was forced to retreat to Alexandria



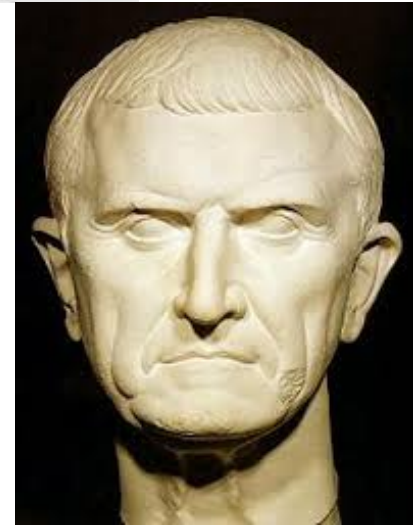
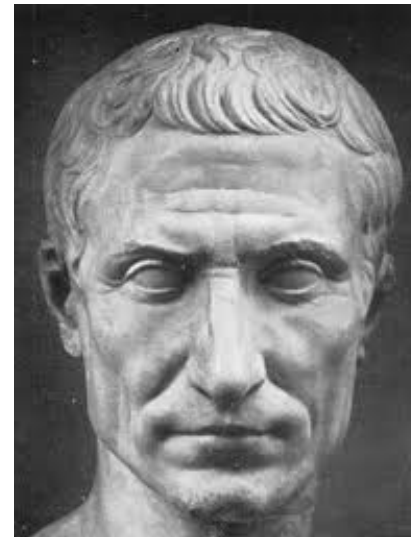
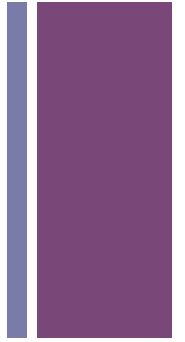
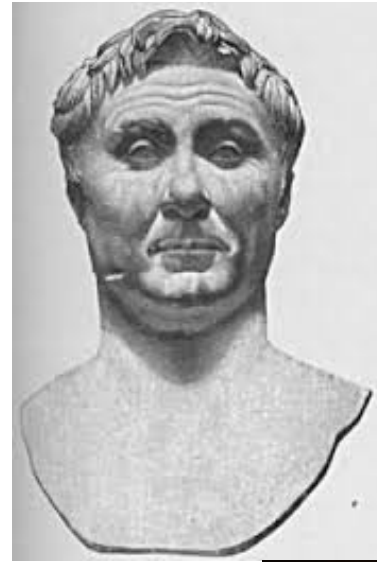
+ From Pompey to Caesar

- Pompey was decapitated after his army abandoned him
- In 46 BCE Caesar then appointed himself dictator for 10 years
- 45 BCE he then appointed himself to life as the dictator



+ From Pompey to Caesar

- In that same year, Caesar became the ***Pontifex Maximus*** (chief priest) and assumed all decision making



Caesar the Dictator

- Took charge of the Senate
- Became the dictator of Rome and made many reforms to strengthen it and protect his power:
- Gave people in the outside provinces the right to become citizens (this would ensure their loyalty to Rome)
- Established colonies in North Africa, France, Spain, Greece
 - Sent unemployed Romans there
 - Increased the pay of soldiers (allegiance)

Caesar and the Senate

Many of the Senate feared that with Caesar's sense of power that he might try and become the king of Rome.

- Brutus and Cassius
 - Two senators
 - Plotted to kill Caesar to save the republic from his conspired return to the monarchy

Ides of March

A seer had foreseen that Caesar would be harmed not later than the Ides of March and on his way to the Theatre of Pompey.

- Ides means half division – meaning the 15th of March

Caesar met that seer and joked, "The ides of March have come", meaning to say that the prophecy had not been fulfilled, to which the seer replied "Ay, Caesar; but not gone."



- March 15th, 44 BC
- Caesar was stabbed to death (23 times) in the Senate
 - By a group of conspirators led by Brutus and Cassius

After the Death...

- Mark Anthony, Lepidus and Octavian were his leading supporters – became the **Second Triumvirate**
 - Octavian was adopted posthumously through Caesar's will!
 - Gathered forces to avenge the murder
 - Executed over 2,000 enemies in Rome
 - Defeated the army of Brutus and Cassius in Greece in 42 BC
 - Both Brutus and Cassius committed suicide after the defeat

The Final War of the Roman Republic

- Between Octavian and Mark Anthony
 - The Roman Senate declared war on the Egyptian queen, Cleopatra who was also Mark Anthony's lover (consequently ally)
 - Mark Anthony betrayed Rome and joined on Cleopatra's side
 - Confronted each other at Actium in 31 BC
 - Naval forces of Octavia destroyed Mark Anthony and his army

End of the Republic

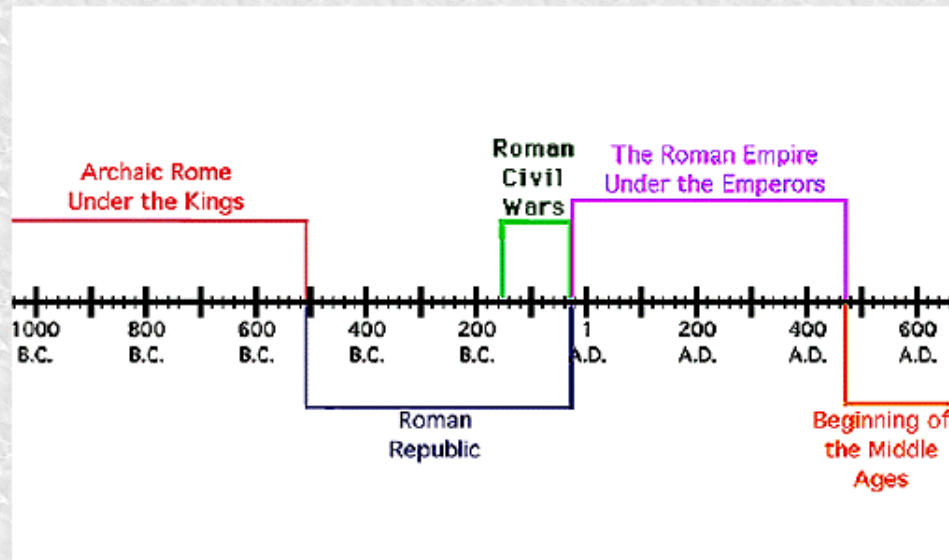
With the victory of Octavian over Mark Anthony, came the end of the Roman Republic.

- Octavian became the first Emperor of Rome, and assumed complete power
- *Augustus*, meaning “highest one”
- 27 BC



Timeline of Ancient Rome

- Founding of Rome: 753 BCE (Romulus)
- Etruscan Monarchy: 753 BCE-509 BCE
- Roman Republic: 509 BCE – 27 BCE
- Roman Empire: 27 BCE – 476 CE



Discontent with Roman Republic



1. Widening gap between patricians and plebeians
2. Issue of Roman citizenship in colonies
3. Wealth from wars and expansion made leaders (governors and generals) greedy and dishonest, and it also caused the poor people to want more rights
4. Several consuls were assassinated as others tried to take position by force
5. Increasing slave rebellions against severe treatment

Solutions

- continuous attempts to control tensions and help poor (Gracchus brothers)
- Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus sought land reforms, proposed free grain and more citizen rights... but both were killed

Reasons for Fall of Republic

- state's inability to bridge the gap between rich and poor
- Lack of effective control of Rome's new found wealth & commercialism
- social uprisings of non-Roman Italians over Roman citizenship
- Military reforms of standing army and legions increased power and influence of Roman Generals (ie. Julius Caesar)